IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1-6, cancel claim 15, and add new claims 16-23, as indicated in the following listing of claims, which replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A filter catalyst for purifying exhaust gases comprising:

a honeycomb structure including:

inlet cells clogged on the downstream side of the exhaust gases;

outlet cells neighboring the inlet cells and clogged on the upstream side of the exhaust gases;

filter cellular walls demarcating the inlet cells and outlet cells, and having pores of an average pore diameter of from 20 to 40 μm; and

a catalytic layer formed on the filter cellular walls and on the inside surface of the pores, and having:

a first catalyst support having a first thickness, comprising a [[consisting of]] porous oxide material with an average particle diameter of 1 μm or less, and being arranged along the inside surface of the pores of the filter cellular walls;

a second catalyst support having a second thickness greater than the first thickness of the first catalyst support, [[consisting of the]] comprising a porous oxide material with an average particle diameter within a range from about 1/20 to 1/2 of the average pore

diameter of the filter cellular walls, and being arranged in the pores of the filter cellular walls so as to partially cover the first catalyst support; and

a catalytic ingredient~~; and~~

~~the catalytic layer having parts where the second catalyst support exists and other parts where the second catalyst support does not exist and having uneven surfaces~~.

2. (Currently Amended) The filter catalyst set forth in claim 1, wherein the second catalyst support is loaded on [[the layer comprising]] a portion of the first catalyst support.

3. (Currently Amended) The filter catalyst set forth in claim 1, wherein [[the]] a porosity of the filter cellular walls is from 60 to 80 %.

4. (Currently Amended) The filter catalyst set forth in claim 1, wherein the catalytic layer contains an NO_x [[sorbent]] absorbent selected from alkali metals, alkali earth metals or rare-earth elements, which is loaded at least on one of the first catalyst support and the second catalyst support.

5. (Currently Amended) The filter catalyst set forth in claim 2, wherein the catalytic layer contains an NO_x [[sorbent]] absorbent selected from alkali metals,

alkali earth metals or rare-earth elements, which is loaded at least on one of the first catalyst support and the second catalyst support.

6. (Currently Amended) The filter catalyst set forth in claim 3, wherein the catalytic layer contains an NO_x [[sorbent]] absorbent selected from alkali metals, alkali earth metals or rare-earth elements, which is loaded at least on one of the first catalyst support and the second catalyst support.

7. (Original) The filter catalyst set forth in claim 1, wherein the catalytic layer contains an NO_x-absorbing member, by which NO_x is absorbed at low temperatures and is released at high temperatures.

8. (Original) The filter catalyst set forth in claim 2, wherein the catalytic layer contains an NO_x-absorbing member, by which NO_x is absorbed at low temperatures and is released at high temperatures.

9. (Original) The filter catalyst set forth in claim 3, wherein the catalytic layer contains an NO_x-absorbing member, by which NO_x is absorbed at low temperatures and is released at high temperatures.

10. (Original) The filter catalyst set forth in claim 4, wherein the catalytic layer contains an NO_x-absorbing member, by which NO_x is absorbed at low temperatures and is released at high temperatures.

11. (Original) The filter catalyst set forth in claim 1, wherein the catalytic layer contains an NO_x-absorbing member, comprising a powder including at least zirconia and ceria, and noble metal loaded on said powder.

12. (Original) The filter catalyst set forth in claim 2, wherein the catalytic layer contains an NO_x-absorbing member, comprising a powder including at least zirconia and ceria, and noble metal loaded on said powder.

13. (Original) The filter catalyst set forth in claim 3, wherein the catalytic layer contains an NO_x-absorbing member, comprising a powder including at least zirconia and ceria, and noble metal loaded on said powder.

14. (Original) The filter catalyst set forth in claim 4, wherein the catalytic layer contains an NO_x-absorbing member, comprising a powder including at least zirconia and ceria, and noble metal loaded on said powder.

15. (Cancelled)

16. (New) The filter catalyst set forth in claim 1, wherein the first catalyst support has a first thickness and the second catalyst support has a second thickness greater than the first thickness of the first catalyst support.

17. (New) A catalyst filter comprising:

a honeycomb structure having an inlet, an outlet, and a pattern of pores, each pore having an average diameter of from 20 to 40 μm;

a first layer having a first catalyst material with an average particle diameter of 1 μm or less, and arranged to coat an inside surface of the pores of the honeycomb structure;

a second layer having a second catalyst material with an average particle diameter between about 1/20 and 1/2 of the average diameter of the pores of the honeycomb structure, and arranged to partially cover the first layer coated on the inside surface of the pores of the honeycomb structure; and

a catalytic material configured to form a catalytic reaction with the first and second catalyst materials of the first and second layers when gases pass through the honeycomb structure.

18. (New) The filter catalyst set forth in claim 17, wherein the first layer has a first thickness and the second layer has a second thickness greater than the first thickness of the first layer.

19. (New) The catalyst filter of claim 17, wherein the second layer is deposited on a portion of the first layer so as to form a catalytic layer having a non-uniform thickness.

20. (New) The catalyst filter of claim 17, wherein the honeycomb structure includes filter cellular walls having a particle porosity between about 60 and about 80 %.

21. (New) The catalyst filter of claim 17, wherein the catalytic material includes an NO_x absorbent material selected from alkali metals, alkali earth metals or rare-earth elements, and the catalytic material is deposited on one of the first and second layers.

22. (New) The catalyst filter of claim 17, wherein the catalytic material includes an NO_x-absorbing member, by which NO_x is absorbed at low temperatures and is released at high temperatures.

23. (New) The catalyst filter of claim 17, wherein the catalytic material includes an NO_x-absorbing member comprising a powder including at least zirconia and ceria, and noble metal loaded on the powder.